

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. On oral instructions from Captain Aglatov to Ministerial Director Schlobach, all drafts of laws in Saxony-Anhalt must be shown to the political officer of SMA Halle before they go to the Landtag. Thus SMA can make any desired emendations without appearing to interfere in the regular legislative procedure, and outward democratic forms are protected.
2. Oral instructions were given to Dr. Fichter of the Land Planning Office that all academically trained persons had to register, and lists of their names must be presented to SMA. A terminal date of 3 January 1948 was originally set, but this had to be extended and registration was still going on in early March 1948. The order naturally produced unrest and caused renewed flights to the western zones. Moreover, Minister-President Hübener stated that he had not been informed of the order. Minister of Interior Siewert had issued a circular on 30 December 1947 but only by telephoned telegrams, and he denied any knowledge of such an order. He finally had to admit, however, that he had issued it when written evidence of the original order was found.
3. The post office of Saxony-Anhalt showed a considerable monthly surplus. Upon specific orders, this went to the Central Administration in Berlin and thence to the Russians. According to the head of the Economics Statistical Office of the Land government, the Bunawerk in Schkopau received a subvention of thirty million marks, with the aid of which the plant showed a surplus of sixty million marks. The entire surplus was absorbed by the Russians.
4. After the publication of Order No. 32 of 12 February 1948 terminating reparations, and after it became known that 1948 reparations would be no higher than in 1947, the Reparations Division in the latter half of February 1948 received forty new reparations commissions and other reparations orders were converted into APG orders. This conversion was so extensive that it finally exceeded the total of

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reparations orders. Since APO orders are not put on the reparations accounts, they demand double value from the German economy in that they are made up from German needs and are still not counted as reparations. In such orders as children's shoes for the Red Army, for example, the material appears to be purely reparations and not occupation payment.

5. At a conference of division heads of the Land government of Saxony-Anhalt on 18 February 1948, Minister of Interior Siewert stated that the right of issuing orders and instruction which had been transferred to the German Economic Commission would also be given the Central Administration for Justice and People's Education and the German Administration of the Interior, particularly the latter. Siewert justified this measure with the statement that lands which had an "accidental" majority (meaning "undesired bourgeois") could thus be prevented from developing in an undesirable direction. Two of the five Landtags of the Russian Zone, Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt, have a bourgeois majority, but under the new provision, contested elections will be eliminated and SED cannot be defeated. "Such a step," said Siewert, "is necessary for true democracy."

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6. [REDACTED] the Volkskongress movement in Saxony-Anhalt was proceeding under difficulties, although all functionaries in leading positions were members of SED and other parties had only nominal representation. Meetings for the Volkskongress were well attended only where pressure was used, particularly in factories. Of seven meetings scheduled in various wards of Halle in February, three had to be given up entirely because no one came, in spite of extensive announcements, and two others had attendances under twenty persons. Source comments that the reasons given for the failure of the meetings were usually lack of time or lack of interest, and that the same caution in dealing with facts was used as had prevailed under the Nazis.

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